Dear Rock Ridge Community:

With our recent experience with crazy weather I want to thank all of you for your patience and support when we are forced to transition into a lightning dismissal here at Rock Ridge. This is always a challenging moment and something that we strive to streamline, maintaining a safe experience for everyone. With that said, please remember that with our lightning protocol, we will not release students if lightning has been within a 6-mile radius inside of a 30-minute window. We will have a yellow flag on the flag pole to signal that we are currently following our lightning protocol. Should you wish to enter the building to retrieve your child you have that option. However, I would recommend waiting until we have deemed the area safe and begin releasing students.

Fall is an exciting time of year in Colorado and especially at Rock Ridge and Douglas County. At the time of writing this piece we are in the middle of Douglas County High School homecoming. We will have representation in the parade again, thanks to our student council, and the creation of a float that aligns with the homecoming theme, “Under DC”, or under the sea. Thank you to Mr. Lentz, for pulling the float with his truck, Mr. Cox, Ms. Shea and the Rock Ridge student council for creating such a cool float.

I am excited to be joining Mr. Lentz for our archery club kickoff. We will be starting Monday, September 30th with 4th-5th graders in the AM (7:30-8:30) and 6th-high school in the afternoon (3:45-4:45). Please be sure to complete the archery permission form so that your child can participate this year. We are optimistic for another strong showing in state and hope to be going to nationals for the 4th year in a row.

**A couple of management details:**

1. Please refrain from picking up your child after 3:00pm unless for a doctor or other urgent matter. After 3:00pm the office becomes very busy and we cannot guarantee that we will be able to have your child down to the front office in a timely manner.

2. After School Messages must be called in prior to 3:00pm because that is when they are delivered to students. Again, this is due to how busy the front office is towards the end of the school day.

Thanks again for helping Rock Ridge be an amazing place to work and go to school. Should you have any questions, concerns or celebrations, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Peter Mosby, Principal
**Important Dates/ Mark Your Calendar**

**September**
- September 10th (All day) - Chick-Fil-A Spirit Day
- September 12th (2:30-3:30pm) - Butter Braids- parent pick up
- September 16th - Rock Ridge Run pledges due
- September 16th (7:45-8:25am) - Guardians of the Gadgets (grades 1-3)
- September 17th (4:00-7:00pm) - Parent Teacher Conferences
- September 18th (9:00-10:00am) - Mike Nelson Weather man
- September 19th (4:00-7:00pm) - Parent Teacher Conferences
- September 20th - **No School** - Teacher Professional Development Day
- September 23rd (7:45-8:25am) - Guardians of the Gadgets (grades 4-6)
- September 24th (6:00-7:00pm) - WatchDOGS Pizza & Dodgeball Night!
- September 25th (2:00-3:00pm) - Rock Ridge Run Prize Assembly
- September 30th - Archery Club Kick-off
  - 7:30-8:30am - 4th & 5th grades
  - 3:45-4:45pm - 6th grade

**October**
- October 1st-3rd - 6th grade Outdoor Ed
- October 1st (12:00pm-9:00pm) - Smart Cow Spirit Day
- October 8th (6:00-7:00pm) - PTO Meeting
- October 10th (3:45-4:30pm) - Spanish Club
- October 14th-18th - **No School** Fall Break
Students had the opportunity to explore Colorado without leaving the school thanks to the Giant Colorado Map from the District Library. They learned about elevation, grid coordinates, topography, location of cities, and the history of city and town names.

**Giant Map of Colorado**

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**Rock Ridge Run**

Our students ran a total of 14,069 laps (879 miles!!) during our Rock Ridge Run on September 6th.

Congrats to Will Mlsna (5th grade) who ran the most laps... 53!!

Due to the PTO Sponsorship of the Rock Ridge Run, 90% of all pledges will be coming right back to our school. The funds will go towards technology in the classrooms and the PTO yearly budget. Pledged funds are due Monday, September 16th and Prize Day is September 25th.

Thank you all for your support!
Our Back to School BBQ/Rock Ridge 30th Birthday Bash was a big hit!!

Thank you to all those who attended, to those who volunteered their time and donated items, and especially to our RRE PTO who sponsored the event. It was an enjoyable evening with our Rock Ridge Community.
Gym: 4th-6th grade will begin an archery unit and also perform several fitness tests during the month of September.
3rd grade will be perfecting their throwing and catching abilities.
Kindergarten-2nd grade will continue to learn about safety in the gym, and how to travel safely during large group activities.

Music: In Music class we are exploring musical systems through the IB Transdisciplinary theme, “How We Organize Ourselves”. K-2 will be learning rhythms and singing songs, grades 3-4 are working on playing Ukuleles, reading the treble clef and strumming beats and rhythms; 5th grade is learning how to read music and play the guitar; 6th grade is learning how to read the grand staff and play songs on the piano.
Join Rock Ridge Singers at the Rockies game on September 28th and hear them sing the National Anthem!
Buy your tickets through: https://www.mlb.com/rockies/tickets/specials/choir
Scroll down to Rock Ridge to buy your tickets to receive a discount!

Spanish: In Spanish, we are continuing with the theme “Who We Are”. Students will be practicing the phrases, “me gusta” and “no me gusta”. Older students will get practice interviewing each other and discovering what things others like and dislike. Younger students will classify foods into like and dislike categories.

Art: Hello parents! We are finishing up our art for Original Works. Students will receive a family packet to take home the week of 10/1, this will include their original work as well as pricing and information on purchasing. The deadline to order will be October 10th. Also, I am in need of empty plastic milk jugs. I am making skeletons out of them with some of my classes. Please bring donations to the front office. Thank You!
Important Notices

Breakfast
A gentle reminder that breakfast runs from 8:20 am till 8:35 am. Students may enter through the cafeteria doors at first bell. Please let Mrs. Robin Chadwick (robin.chadwick@dcsdk12.org) know if you do NOT want your child(ren) to participate.

Car Loop (Kiss N’Go)
For the safety of our students, please do not have students exit vehicles before the Drop-Off Zone and only to the right (towards the sidewalk). Please stay in the single file lane until the vehicle in front of you proceeds forward. Moving out of the single file lane to go around vehicles creates a dangerous situation when children are crossing between cars. Our Kiss N’Go lane is also a fire lane so please do not park and leave your vehicles unattended at any time during the day for they may be ticketed. This applies to Preschool and Kinder pick up and drop off as well. Please use the church or our parking lot if you need to leave your vehicle. Per Douglas County Fire Code, we need to make sure the Fire Lane is clear in case of an emergency. We appreciate your understanding.

Dismissal
Students will be released at 3:30pm when the bell rings. We ask that if your child(ren) need to leave early, you have them picked up by 3:00 pm as the office gets very busy at the end of the day and classes are packing up. Please contact the school before 3pm if there is a change in pick up routine as we deliver notes to students at 3pm.

Picking up your child early?
Please remember that the procedures that we have in place at RRE are designed to keep your children safe. We cannot call your children down to the office until you are physically present at the office to sign them out. This safeguard ensures that someone authorized is picking up your child and we have documentation of who and when he or she was picked up. We ask that if your child(ren) need to leave early, you have them picked up by 3:00 pm as the office gets very busy at the end of the day and classes are packing up. Thank you for your understanding of the safety procedures we have in place.
The Box Tops program is CHANGING!!

Box Tops is moving their whole program to be digital only. All participants will need to download the app and then scan receipts to watch their Box Tops add up. Please check out the link below for more information.

[https://www.boxtops4education.com/](https://www.boxtops4education.com/)

Unexpired paper Box Tops will still be accepted so please send yours in ASAP! They can be dropped off at any time in our very own Box Tops mailbox.

Paper Box Tops are submitted in October and March to the Box Tops program, and checks are received in December and May. All Box Tops funds at Rock Ridge are earmarked for technology which covers our annual subscription for the PebbleGo program, a K-3 literacy program.

Thank you and please contact us at [rockridgepto@gmail.com](mailto:rockridgepto@gmail.com) with any questions.
B.A.S.E.

Rock Ridge is proud to present the Rock Ridge Rockets Before and After School program (Rockets B.A.S.E. for short). This program provides a fun and relaxing way for your students to start or end their day on site here at Rock Ridge Elementary. Your kids have the opportunity to play gym games, participate in crafts and learn in a safe, professional environment right here in their own elementary school.

Hours of operation daily are 6:30am-8:30am and 3:30pm-6:00pm. They also provide full day care during breaks and school closures, such as the August 27th assessment day. If you think you may need care for your children, please visit them at https://sites.google.com/dcsdk12.org/rock-ridge-base. Or feel free to reach out to the program Manager Josh Schaner. He can be contacted at Jschaner@dcsdk12.org or 303-549-7283 with any inquiries!

They look forward to hearing from you and hope you have a wonderful day!

Make a difference, Volunteer!

If you are interested in volunteering in your child’s classroom or would like to help with a school wide event, please contact Brittany Shiner at bshiner@dcsdk12.org. Your precious gift of time provides much needed assistance to our amazing teachers and allows you to actively participate in our children’s academic success. THANK YOU!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

We can always use an extra hand in the Library!

Keep in mind, you are always welcome to stop by and have lunch with your student(s)!
International Baccalaureate

Each month we focus on an IB Learner Profile and **Balanced** is our focus for the month of **September**.

Students who are balanced are healthy and are aware that eating properly and exercising is important in their lives. They understand that it is important to have a balance between the physical and mental aspects of their bodies. They spend time doing many different things.

**How can parents help to develop students who are balanced at home?**

- Encourage your child to participate in a wide variety of structured activities.
- During less structured time, also be aware of the activities that your child is participating in. Too much time in front of the computer or television is obviously not desirable, but all kids need to do a variety of things. Generally active kids should take time for quiet reading or reflection; students who spend a lot of time drawing or reading, should be encouraged to also exercise and play.
- Discuss the food groups with your child. Spend a few minutes during a mealtime deciding if what your family is eating is balanced.
- Model this attribute. Spend time as a parent or family doing many different activities.

**WATCH D.O.G.S.**

Calling ALL Dads, Stepdads, Granddads, Uncles, and Brothers!

Ever feel like you want to get involved with your kid's day but not sure how? **Watch D.O.G.S.** is an innovative program focusing on education and safety in schools by using the positive influence of fathers and father-figures.

You can be a positive role model and provide an extra set of eyes and ears for our students' safety by:

- Monitoring the school’s property
- Working one on one in small groups
- Reading
- Flashcards
- Lunch and recess
- Or whatever needs to be done to **PLANT SEEDS OF SUCCESS**

Please get in touch with Brittany Shiner at bshiner@dcsdk12.org if you have any questions or would like to volunteer!